

CAMWS Annual Report for the Year 2018
Gulf States Region (Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas)
Submitted by T. Davina McClain

1. Information on the activities of the state/provincial Classical association

While there is no provincial association beyond CAMWS and CAMWS-Southern Section, most state organizations make their presence known in different ways. TCA met in November 2018. ACA and LCA hold meetings in the Fall and at their respective JCL Meeting in March.

2. Promotional activities in the state or province

Texas has an amazingly strong JCL with 2013 attendees in 2018. Mississippi continues shine by offering a wide variety of activities throughout the year: a strong MJCL presence, an afterschool Latin program, a Classics Week that includes performances of a play seen by over 400 people and an academic symposium. ACA and LCA assist at their JCL meetings.

3. CAMWS membership (efforts at promotion and results)

As much as we all value CAMWS, it is difficult to promote membership because of costs and the sense that the meeting is the main benefit – something many teachers cannot afford to attend. The value of CPL funds for helping programs with projects does help. Only Alabama reports specific ideas and plans for recruiting new members and has an advantage because of the 2020 meeting in Birmingham. The location of that meeting, however, offers an opportunity for all of the Gulf Region to step up on increasing CAMWS membership. Similarly, the location of the 2020 CAMWS-SS meeting in Texas and the coordination with TCA can have positive outcomes for CAMWS in this region.

4. Efforts in the state or province to meet the CPL annual goals

Louisiana and Mississippi make the best use of CPL funds.

5. Use of CPL monies, interest in CAMWS scholarships, etc.

Louisiana and Mississippi both applied for and received \$500 Bridge Grants. More programs should, because the application is easy and requires very reasonable documentation. There are no reports about applications for CAMWS scholarships.

6. Problems and challenges in the state or province

The financial situation of institutions within Louisiana continues to pose challenges for programs in that state, but the addition of a Classical Studies major at NSU signals that growth is possible. A verbal commitment from the Governor, if he can get the legislature to work with him, suggests that education is becoming a priority. Mississippi, Texas, and Alabama continue to be strong in their commitments to classics.

Conclusions/Thoughts/Questions

First of all, the Gulf Region welcomed two new state VPs (Emily Batinski – Louisiana and William Duffy – Texas). Their new insights into the situations of these states will be quite welcome to CAMWS.

Mississippi deserves special recognition for all they do on a regular basis. Every year, they have so much to report. Texas is a huge landmass and has a long tradition of a strong commitment to classics and a new excitement about working with CAMWS through the Southern Section meeting in 2020. Alabama has remained stable and by hosting the 2020 meeting of CAMWS hopes to improve awareness about CAMWS. Louisiana has, perhaps, more challenges than the other states. One answer there may be creating better communication across levels and around the state to build more community and to promote the benefits of CAMWS.

Individual State Reports:

CAMWS 2018 Annual Report The State of Texas Submitted by William S. Duffy

2018 was another strong year for Classics in Texas. While Classics programs in the state are facing the same headwinds found throughout our country, Texas continues to have a large and active population of Classics teachers, students, and scholars. There are also new opportunities for cooperation between CAMWS and state representatives that I hope will lead to improvements in the future.

Regional and State Junior Classical League events continue to be a point of pride for the state. The 2018 TSJCL convention had 1819 student participants and 194 faculty and parent participants, for a total of 2013 attendees. There was also strong attendance at regional Area JCL events across the state. A strong culture of Certamen tournaments both feeds and benefits from the high level with JCL across the state. A reception celebrating 100 years of ACL at the 2018 Texas Classical Association Conference, featuring a visit from Sherwin Little, reinforced Texas' strong connection to the ACL and JCL, and more events are planned for the year 2019. However, one persistent problem has been the simultaneous scheduling of CAMWS and TSJCL, limiting the ability of Texas Teachers to attend CAMWS. Closer cooperation between the two organizations will hopefully address this in the future.

The Texas Classical Association held its annual meeting in November 2018. The event featured several excellent talks, including two from keynote speaker Anthony Corbeill. The TCA conference also brought in new officers, including President William Duffy, President-Elect Nicole Lehman, and Treasurer Paula Read. Notably, this means that for the first time, the CAMWS VP for Texas and TCA President are one and the same, which opens up avenues for future cooperation. In our first conversation, TCA members discussed an interest in getting more access to scholarly activity from CAMWS, potentially in the form of web access to recorded talks or synchronous webinars.

2019 promises to be another exciting year for Classics in Texas. Both the TCA and Texas ACL are planning to increase the number of events they put on in 2019, and we are excited to begin preparations for the coming of the CAMWS Southern Section to Waco, TX in 2020.

CAMWS 2018 Annual Report The State of Louisiana Submitted by Emily Batinski

The state government of Louisiana has made progress in attaining fiscal stability. However, the impact of previous funding cuts has not been addressed.

Colleges and Universities

Reductions in state scholarships continue to affect enrollments this academic year. Classics programs are particularly vulnerable since they must compete for resources with other programs. Increasingly Classics programs are developing online courses which attract an increasing number of students. These online courses may prove instrumental in retaining Classics programs particularly at smaller institutions.

K-12

JCL held another successful state convention. Schools from throughout Louisiana and parts of Arkansas were represented. This is encouraging since students at colleges and universities often mention JCL as a reason for their continuing interest in Classics.

The Louisiana Classical Association held a successful meeting in Baton Rouge. These meetings bring together both secondary school and university faculty to discuss the state of Classics in Louisiana. This year sessions included teaching ancient Greek on the internet, UGA Summer Classics Program, and teaching Roman technology.

Addendum added by T. Davina McClain, Northwestern State University

Northwestern State University officially added a Classical Studies degree to its curriculum beginning July 1, 2018. This degree replaces the Latin Language major. Students can now earn a degree in Classical Studies with minors available in Greek, Latin, or Classics.

Northwestern State University applied for and received a CAMWS (BIG) Bridge Initiative Grant in March 2018 to bring Dr. Elizabeth Cummins to NSU for a public lecture “Not your Mummy’s Memes: Humor and Politics in Old Kingdom Art.” The lecture drew students, faculty, members of the community for an audience of 65+ people.

CAMWS 2018 Annual Report The State of Alabama Submitted by P. Andrew Montgomery

1. Information on the activities of the state/provincial Classical association

The membership of the Alabama Classical Association (ACA) is open to any interested individuals but is composed primarily of secondary and post-secondary teachers throughout the state. There are two primary meetings of the association each year. In October there is a daylong colloquium that usually more than a dozen teachers who meet and share pedagogical ideas and participate in a workshop. A formal business meeting is usually held in late January and is frequently accompanied by a reading of papers and presentations. An informal meeting of the ACA is also held during the annual Alabama Junior Classical League meetings each spring.

The Alabama Junior Classical League has eighteen active school chapters throughout the state. Joint AJCL activities include certamen tournaments and an annual meeting hosted by a participating chapter. The 2018 meeting was hosted by Oak Mountain High School in Shelby County, Alabama. The upcoming 2019 meeting will be hosted by Evangel Classical School and held on the campus of Samford University.

Birmingham, and Samford University look forward to hosting the annual CAMWS meeting in the Spring of 2020.

2. Promotional activities in the state or province Nothing to report.

3. CAMWS membership (efforts at promotion and results)

Direct pitches for CAMWS membership continue to be made at meetings of the ACA and amongst those who attend other events such as the AJCL meetings. CAMWS does offer substantial practical benefits to its members, including access to the Loeb Classical Library, but most K-12 teachers with limited funds for professional memberships choose other options that they feel are more helpful to them and offer them more tangible benefits, such as active engagement in the ACA.

Our immediate challenge in Alabama CAMWS membership is to recruit with a view toward participation in the 2020 CAMWS meeting in Birmingham. Not only is the meeting very accessible to most Alabama teachers, but CAMWS' presence in our state is an opportunity for individual Latin programs around the area to promote the importance of Latin in their own schools and to their administrators. Current membership records indicate that only three teachers at the secondary level maintain active membership in CAMWS.

4. Efforts in the state or province to meet the CPL annual goals

Efforts at increased CAMWS membership is needed in order to promote an interest in CPL monies. Although it seems natural that the availability of CPL monies should attract CAMWS membership, the cost of CAMWS membership has actually been a deterrent.

5. Use of CPL monies, interest in CAMWS scholarships, etc.

No known requests of CPL monies in the State of Alabama

6. Problems and challenges in the state or province

a. Alabama lost one Latin program this past year at the UMS-Wright Preparatory School in Mobile under the direction of Christian Fantoni will be shut down after this year. Otherwise, there continues to be remarkable stability and support for the teaching of Latin in the state.

b. Membership in CAMWS in Alabama is low in proportion to the total number of teachers at the secondary and collegiate levels. Part of this is due to an active state Association that meets many of the needs for mutual support felt by the many secondary teachers of Latin in Alabama.

Conclusion:

Although the state of classics has been healthy, in the state of Alabama for at least a decade, this report indicates that there is much work to be done in raising the awareness of the value of CAMWS membership and participation. In the past, CPL money has not seemed to be a sufficient incentive to participate. Long distances to meetings and available funds for travel and cost of meetings is a strong deterrent, especially when more readily available opportunities are at hand for encouragement and development. The forthcoming CAMWS 2020 meeting in Birmingham is likely to generate much local interest in membership. The challenge will then be to retain that membership.

CAMWS 2018 Annual Report The State of Mississippi Submitted by Jonathon Fenno

In March of 2018 around 300 students attended the Mississippi JCL convention at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. The next JCL will be held in April 2019 at the Mississippi School for Math and Science.

The Department of Classics at the University of Mississippi has continued its after-school Latin program at Oxford Intermediate School, following the *Aequora* program provided by the Paideia Institute (<http://www.paideiainstitute.org/aequora>). In the past year twelve undergraduate students volunteered to teach a total of nearly 50 middle-school students.

A CAMWS Bridge Initiative Grant helped defray costs for a September 2018 production of Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* by Honors Students at Mississippi State University in Starkville. The two performances of the play, seen by 400 members of the public, were part of Classical Week at MSU, which also included an academic Symposium with more than 100 attendees.

In August of 2018 Mississippi State was awarded a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest honor society in the country. In the years leading up to this award, MSU has been steadily expanding its Classics program, including ancient Greek, so that it now has five classicists teaching various courses.

I suppose that at least some MS Latin teachers have continued to encourage their students take the National Latin Exam and the Medusa Classical Mythology Exam, though I do not know it for a fact.